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In view of the arguments set forth below, applicants maintain that the Examiner's rejections made in the August 21, 2003 Office Action have been overcome, and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw same.

The Claimed Invention

This invention provides methods of treating or preventing thrombosis, and decreasing plasma fibrinogen. These methods comprise administering a tumor necrosis factor antagonist to a subject diagnosed as suffering from or at risk of thrombosis.

This invention is based on applicants' *surprising discovery* that inhibiting the biological activity of TNF α reduces fibrinogen levels in subjects suffering from or at risk of thrombosis. Since fibrinogen plays an integral role in forming thrombi, this invention has considerable use for treating and preventing thrombosis in subjects diagnosed as suffering from or at risk thereof.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 14, 15, 36 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.